

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0994/06

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to the Commission

Subject: State of emergency in the Philippines

A state of emergency was proclaimed in the Philippines by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ('Proclamation 1017'), on 24 February 2006, on alleged threats by both the rightist and left oppositions. As a consequence, dispersal and prohibition of even peaceful assemblies of the opposition have been ordered, as have several arrests of opposition personalities, notably Mr Ronald Llamas (Chairman of the 'AKBAYAN Party') and Prof. Randy David. They are accused on whimsical and old trumped up charges. Taking into consideration that what President Arroyo has unleashed could easily evolve into the worst violations of human rights; that Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) pointed out in an immediate press release that 'the process of a state of emergency may be subject to abuse in the hands of lawgivers'; that the 'Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates' (PAHRA) on their part have stated that 'the Government says that people have nothing to fear from "Proclamation 1017" and that its issuance will not mean a curtailment of civil and political rights; but (...) the offices of the "Daily Tribune" have been raided and charges have now been filed against LNA chair person and former president of the University of the Philippines, Ka Dodong Nemenzo':

1. What steps does the European Commission intend to take in order to condemn the state of emergency?
2. What steps does the European Commission intend to take in order that 'Proclamation 1017' be lifted immediately and a prompt return be guaranteed to the civil and political rights of the Filipino people and their democratic legal organisations enshrined in the 1986 Constitution?